



---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 9, 2003**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
**PATRICK J. SCHNEIDER**  
Telephone: (602) 514-7547  
Pager: (602) 356-0207

# **MORTGAGE SCAM KINGPIN PLEADS GUILTY**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 21, 2002, Marco A. Vasquez, DOB 8/6/1062, of Glendale, Arizona, pled guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, a felony, in federal district court in Phoenix, Arizona.

Vasquez, had been charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 371, and 18 U.S.C. 1010, Filing False Documents with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In his guilty proceeding Vasquez admitted that during August 2000 to January 2001, while working as a mortgage loan officer for American Financial Resources, a mortgage banking firm, he enlisted the assistance of his codefendant, Lonny Brooks, to prepare for him fraudulent United States Internal Revenue Form W-2, Statement of Wages and Taxes. These documents were included in applications for residential loans from his company in order to qualify his clients and for mortgage insurance to be issued by Federal Housing Administration (FHA) of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Vasquez also admitted that he further obtained the assistance of his codefendant, Stacy R. Ghazi, a manager of a credit reporting firm to prepare for him altered credit reports by deleting unfavorable information as to his clients so that they would qualify as credit worthy for approval of their loans and FHA mortgage

(MORE)

insurance. Numerous fraudulent applications were submitted to HUD for FHA mortgage insurance. Vasquez acknowledged his purposed in set up the scam was to obtain commissions arising from the successful completion of these applications. The government's loss arising from insurance payments on the subsequently defaulted mortgages is expected to be approximately \$200,000.00.

Vasquez was among six other defendants listed in the indictment. The other defendants cases are pending in Federal District Court.

A conviction for Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, 18 U.S.C. 371, carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

Sentencing for Vasquez is set before Judge Stephen M. McNamee on April 11, 2003.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Special Agents of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh , Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-634-PHX-SMM  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-012

# # #